



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report in Compliance with Title 14, Section 15082(a), 15103, and 15375 of the California Code of Regulations

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. The Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR in order to provide the widest exposure and opportunity for input from public agencies, stakeholders, organizations, and individuals on the scope of the environmental analysis addressing the potential effects of the proposed project.

PROJECT TITLE: Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project

AGENCIES: LACFCD requests your agency's views on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b).

ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED PARTIES: LACFCD requests your input on which environmental issues associated with the proposed project which merit further analysis in the EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project is located in the City of Pasadena, in Los Angeles County approximately 14 miles north of downtown Los Angeles (see Figure 1, Project Vicinity Map and Figure 2, Project Boundary Map).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would remove up to 4.0 million cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir behind Devil's Gate Dam to restore it to its current design standard, and establish a reservoir configuration more suitable for routine maintenance activities including sediment management. Although approximately 2.6 million cubic yards of sediment is the current excess amount of sediment in the reservoir, additional sediment accumulation is anticipated during the upcoming storm seasons due to the burned condition of the watershed that will have to be removed. The ultimate reservoir configuration and volume of sediment to be removed will be determined based on locations of access roads; areas for preservation or restoration of native vegetation; and the amount and location of sediment inflow that occur during the upcoming storm seasons.

Over the years, as storm events deposited sediment in the reservoir, native and non-native vegetation established itself in the sediment deposits. During storm events following the Station Fire, a large portion of the reservoir vegetation was buried in sediment; however significant amounts of vegetation, including numerous mature willow trees remain present. In order to remove the sediment from the reservoir, vegetation growing within excavation areas will require removal. The sediment and organic materials will be trucked off-site via local roads accessing the 210 Freeway and then taken to sites that are already prepared and designated to accept such material without additional construction or vegetation and habitat removal.

The goal of this project is to return adequate flood control capacity to the facility and establish a reservoir configuration more suitable to Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' routine maintenance activities. Primary project objectives include:

- Reducing flood risk to the communities downstream of the reservoir adjacent to the Arroyo Seco by restoring reservoir capacity for flood control and future sediment inflow events;

- Supporting sustainability by establishing a reservoir configuration more suitable for routine maintenance activities including sediment management;
- Removing sediment in front of the dam to facilitate an operational reservoir pool to reduce the possibility of plugging the outlet works with sediment or debris during subsequent storm events;
- Removing sediment placed at Johnson Field during the Devil's Gate Reservoir Interim Measures Project;
- Supporting dam safety by removing sediment accumulated in the reservoir in a timely manner to ensure the ability to empty the reservoir in the event of a dam safety concern.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: The proposed project is expected to occur between Spring 2014 and Winter 2019. Excavation and associated activities within the reservoir area is expected to take place during dryer months, from April to December, Monday through Saturday (except on holidays), as weather permits. Activities will take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Removal of sediment and organic materials off-site is expected to take place between these hours but specific hours may be further defined to avoid sensitive travel times.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: LACFCD has prepared an Initial Study that describes the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Based on the conclusions of the Initial Study, it has been determined that an EIR is the appropriate level of environmental documentation. The topic areas to be discussed in the EIR are Aesthetics, Air Quality/GHG Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Public Services (Parks), Recreation, and Transportation/Traffic. The EIR will include the provision of alternatives.

PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD: LACFCD has determined to make this NOP and Initial Study available for public review and comment pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15082(b). LACFCD will accept written comments for the NOP regarding the scoping of the EIR between September 28, 2011 and November 11, 2011. The LACFCD will hold two public scoping meetings to allow the agencies and members of the public to provide input on which environmental issues merit further analysis in the EIR. These scoping meetings will occur on **Wednesday, October 5, 2011** at 6:30 p.m. in the Rose Bowl Locker Room (1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena, 91103, park in Lot F, enter at Gate A) and **Saturday, October 15, 2011** at 9:00 a.m. in the La Canada High School Cafeteria (4463 Oak Grove Drive, La Canada, 91011).

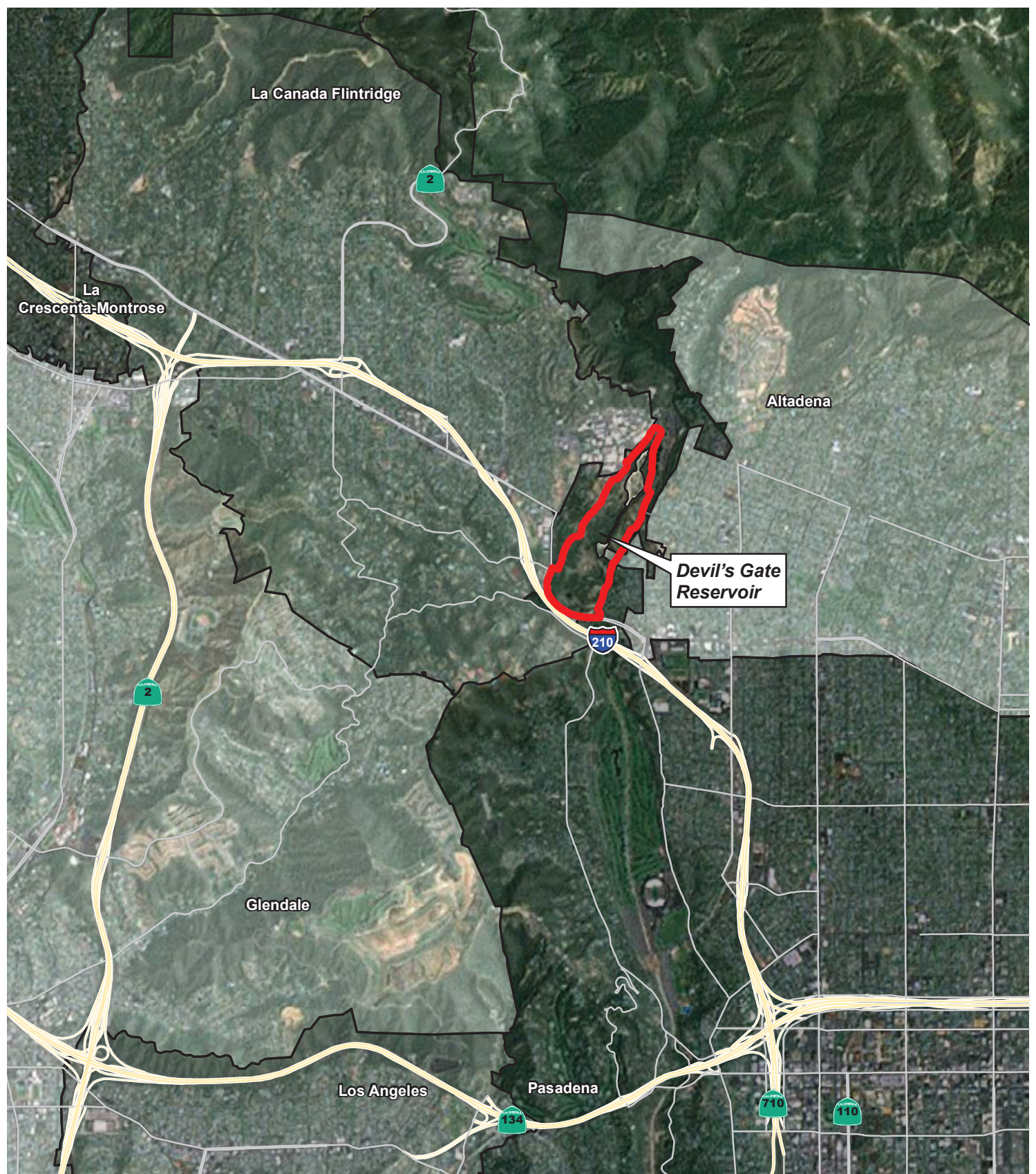
RESPONSES AND COMMENTS: Please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization and send your comments to:
 Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
 Attn: Water Resources Division – Reservoir Cleanouts
 P.O. Box 1460
 Alhambra, CA 91802-9974

Your comments may also be sent by FAX to (626) 979-5436 or by email to reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov and include "Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project" in the subject line.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Initial Study is available for public review during regular business hours at the locations listed below.

- Linda Vista Library, 1281 Bryant Street, Pasadena, California
- Pasadena Central Library, 285 East Walnut Street, Pasadena, California
- San Rafael Branch Library, 1240 Nithsdale, Pasadena, California
- Altadena Library District, 600 East Mariposa Street, Altadena, California
- Bob Lucas Memorial Library, 2659 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, California
- La Canada Flintridge Library, 4545 North Oakwood Avenue, La Canada Flintridge, California
- Irwindale Public Library, 5050 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, California
- County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California

In addition, the NOP/IS is available online at the website (www.lasedimentmanagement.com/devilsgate).



Legend



-  Proposed Project Site
-  City Limit



Figure 1
Project Vicinity Map



Figure 2
Project Boundary Map